

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

- ✓ 1. (Presently Amended) An isolated or purified enzyme exhibiting nicotianamine synthase activity, wherein the enzyme is selected from:

(A) the polypeptide having comprising an amino acid sequence shown in of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
(B) a polypeptide corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1 in which at least one amino acid has been replaced by another amino acid residue, at least one amino acid in the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 has been deleted, or at least one additional amino acid has been inserted into the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or amino acid sequence having deletion in a part thereof, being substituted by the other amino acids or being added with the other amino acids.

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- ✓ 2. (Presently Amended) The nicotianamine synthase enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is originated-isolated from barley.

3. (Presently Amended) The nicotianamine synthase enzyme according to claim 1 or 2, comprising having wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 or 13.

- ✓ 4. (Presently Amended) The nicotianamine synthase enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is originated-isolated from Arabidopsis.

5. (Presently Amended) The nicotianamine synthase enzyme according to claim 1 or 4, comprising having wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17, 19 or 21.

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- ✓ 6. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme is ~~originated~~obtained from *Oryza sativa*.
7. (Presently Amended) The ~~nicotianamine synthase~~enzyme according to claim 1 ~~or 6~~, ~~comprising having~~ wherein the enzyme has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.